

# BHRDCA U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS

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### Round 3 Report

Again good weather has prevailed and another full round of U18 cricket completed. Firstly I would like to congratulate Adrain Vidajic (Yarraleen), Liam Smith (Blackburn Nth) and Vermont's Shehan Kudage-Don on their selection in the Emus U18 Team, great effort guys.

### Maddocks Sports Championship



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#### Vermont v Forest Hill

The Eagles won the toss, elected to bat and were off to a flyer with the top three bats getting solid starts. Shehan Kudage-Don was the first to go just missing his half-ton in an 84 run opening partnership with Ben Gibson (35). Angus Hands (37) kept the pressure on receiving some late support from Max Healey (28) to close the innings out at a good 215. The Zebras Mitch Tomkins-Barry bowled an excellent spell to finish with 3 / 21.

Forest Hill's chase was quickly in trouble with 3 back in the shed with only 32 on the board and that soon became 6 / 67. Mitchell Tomkins-Barry followed up his bowling with a sound 28 but it was never going to be enough to give Vermont any real concern. The Eagles bowling was a real team effort with 7 bowlers contributing to the wickets and they ran out winners to the tune of 101 runs.

#### Heatherdale v Eley Park

The Parkers travelled to Heatherdale where the hosts won the toss and sent Eley Park into the field. Early signs were good for the Dales as Rodrigo Arguello (55) and Matty Stewart's (31) 76 run opening dig set them up for what promised to be a top score. Twin 26's from the two Sam's Louis and Brooks kept the screws tightening against some very tight bowling and the Dales may have felt a little disappointed with a final total of 188. Jed Dally (3/20), Harvey Dale (3/19) and Robbie Cox (2/31) led the Parkers attack.

The loss of a wicket before a run was on the board failed to curtail Eley Parks confidence. A brilliant 77 from Zach Tzitsikas formed the backboard for the Parkers as he, supported by Robbie Cox (31), Ben Gerloff (46) and Sam Kimber (22) gradually pulled in the Heatherdale score for a great win by 5 wickets.

## **Heathmont v Croydon Ranges.**

Heathmont lost their first wicket at 29 but any Ranges joy was short lived as the ever consistent Lincoln Wong (38) and Ryan Quirk (48) began to get on top of the bowling attack. The backbone of the innings however was a fantastic 100\* fro Joel Merrett along with some late big hitting from Tyson Henry (44) allows Heathmont to post an excellent final score of 7 / 328 a big task for the Croydon batsmen. Rohan Saric-Skewes returned the best figures a competitive 2 / 34.

Croydon Ranges run chase got off to a solid start but just as batsmen seemed to be settling in for a big score they fell by the wayside. Dave Killen (34), Rohan Saric-Skewes (36) and Lachlan Harvey (35) all were good competitors but only a late effort by Ash Haywood (50\*) reached big numbers in a final score of 8/259 an effort that would have won every other game in the round. An excellent win for Heathmont.

## **Rebel Sport Championship**



### **Yarraleen v Vermont**

Yarraleen hosted Vermont at Bulleen Park. Runs were hard to come by against some steady line and length from the Eagles bowling attack. Nadi Hamzovski was again among the runs with a sound 64 that was cut short just as he threatened to break out. Nadi was well supported by Adrian Vidajic (34) but the going was slow and a final score of 5 / 161 was well short of where it might have been. Lachlan Jackson (2 / 21) returned the top figures in a consistent containing effort by the bowlers.

Vermont in reply also found the going hard. Opener Ben Stoikos (62) held up one end as his partners fell steadily at the other end. It was the introduction of the reliable Ben Riddle to the crease that slowly turned the game Vermont's way, Ben finishing on an unbeaten half century to guide his side home for a 4 wicket win. Jack Dullard (2 / 35) was the only multiple wicket taker in another consistent bowling performance.

### **Doncaster v Mitcham/Blackburn**

This was a really good batting performance by Doncaster with all batsmen making a contribution to the team total. Rafael Epstein (84) was desperately unlucky not to post his ton while Joe Blyth (27) and Damon Shemmeld (22) did their best to keep the score ticking over. The final competitive total of 7 / 220 was a real team effort. Tom Rogers (2 / 30) played his part for the combined with the ball.

Mitchell Mahoney (70) and Tom Macrokanis (46) 95 run opening partnership looked like a match winning effort by the Combined team in reply. The incoming batsmen were met with some great bowling from Nicky Mustafa (3 / 24) and Rafael Epstein (2/11) and runs became harder as the overs ebbed away. Tom Rogers (18) held things up for a while but it was Doncaster who eventually carried the day with Mitcham/Blackburn running out of steam to close at 9/183.

## **East Box Hill/Box Hill Nth Super Kings v East Doncaster/East Burwood**

This was a battle of two teams in top form. East Box Hill/Box Hill Nth Super Kings boast a strong batting line up but apart from a fighting 87 from Darcy Tobias and a late flourish (24) by Daniel Tallariti, it was the ball that dominated the days proceedings. Ben Evans (3/31), Adam Chan (2/17) and Griffin McComb (2/28) kept the ball up and made scoring hard. The compulsory closure score of 9/204 was competitive but probably 30 runs short of what had been planned.

Day 2 saw an excellent run chase from the East Doncaster/East Burwood batsmen. At 3 / 71 the game was in the balance after Chris Colombo (39) had given them a solid start. It was a 4<sup>th</sup> wicket fighting stand of 89 from Adam Chan (70) and Griffin McComb (44) that gradually turned the game the East Combined way. Things were again thrown into disarray as John Collopy (4/45) AND Gavin Carusi (3/45) again put the result into doubt with ED/EB 8 wickets down still needing 15 runs. Swings, misses and chewed fingernails coupled with dwindling overs kept the crowd on edge and it was the East Combined team that ran out the winners with only two balls left.

### **Wrap-Up**

Heathmont and Vermont stand on top of the ladder in Maddocks unbeaten on 18 points. Vermont Sth and Forest Hill round out the 4 both on 9 points and all other sides have posted 6 points in a tight contest. Eley Park have the bye this round while Croydon Ranges host Forest Hill and Heatherdale travel to Livingstone to play Vermont Sth. The match of the round however will be the top of the table clash between Vermont and Heathmont with the winner taking top spot on their own.

It is a similar story in Rebel with Blackburn Nth and East Doncaster/East Burwood sharing the lead on 18 points. East Box Hill/Box Hill Nth Super Kings shared 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> on 12 points with Mitcham/Blackburn and Vermont on 6 points. Yarraleen despite good performances still have to post points.

Yarraleen have the bye this round, Doncaster host EBH/East Burwood and Blackburn Nth welcome Vermont down at Len Toogood. East Doncaster/East Burwood are at home again against Mitcham/Blackburn to complete the round.

The X factor this round will undoubtedly be Schoolies with many players missing so it will be a case of watch this space in all games.

Players of the Round Awards were again tough to determine but I have finally settled on Joel Merrett's unbeaten ton for Heathmont in Maddocks and Rafael Epstein's all round 84 and 2 / 11 for Doncaster – well done boys both great efforts.

### **Vale Phil Hughes**

As I have just completed this report, I have just heard the news on the passing of Australian and South Australian batsman Phil Hughes. This very sad passing of a young sportsman playing at the start of what was a promising career at the top level of our sport is a timely reminder to all of us about what sport and life is all about.

It is vitally important that we ensure you take all care when you play our game, wear a helmet whenever it is called for, don't field too close to the wicket, concentrate on what is happening around you and stay safe. It is also vital that you get maximum enjoyment and fun from your match's, respect your team mates and respect your opponents and make every moment count

Peter White